Similar Triangle Activity #1: Shadow Play

Instructions

- 1. Work in a group of two or three. Submit a neat and organized assignment.
- 2. Locate a high object where you can measure the length of its shadow.
- 3. Measure the height and shadow length of each group member.
- 4. Sketch and label all of the triangles for your measurements.
- 5. Calculate the height of the object using the height and shadow length for each group member.
- 6. Take the average of the heights as your final answer for the height of your object.

Follow up questions (use complete sentences/paragraph form)

- 1. Write the corresponding side ratios for the triangles of the group members. Are the triangles similar?
- 2. Discuss some reasons that the height calculation could be different from person to person.
- 3. Suggest one or two ways this activity could be improved upon to obtain more accurate results.
- 4. Could this technique be used to find the height of any object? Discuss some limitations to this method.
- 5. What two other objects in the city would you like to calculate the height of?

